

DV 2011 PODCAST TRANSCRIPT

Q: We are here today with the deputy chief of consular section of the US Consulate General Lagos. He is answering questions on DV 2011 lottery also known as American Visa Lottery 2011. “What is registration period for the DV 2011 program?”

ANS: The DV 2011 kicked off on October 2nd and will run until 12 noon EST on Monday November 30th 2009. That is 6pm Nigerian time.

Q: Ok. How can I enter for the visa lottery?

ANS: Please go to the official website, <http://www.dvlottery.state.gov/>. There you will find complete instructions on how to submit an application, some frequently asked questions that people have and the directions for submitting your entry. There are a couple of things we'll like you to keep in mind as you prepare an entry. Only online entries are accepted, we cannot accept paper mails. All entries must be properly completed and this year, for the first time, applicants must include an email address. If your entry does not include an email address, it will not be accepted. Please only submit one entry per applicant. A couple, for example a husband and wife can submit applications separately if they would like. Multiple entries do not give you more chances. Multiple entries will only mean that all of your entries will be rejected. When you submit your entry, please wait. You will get a confirmation page that will let you know if you have successfully entered your online application.

Q: Now, what are the educational or occupational requirements of the DV program?

ANS: In addition to the regular requirements that apply to all immigrant visa applicants, DV applicants must fulfill special educational or occupational requirements. Educationally you must fulfill an equivalent of a US high school diploma. In Nigeria, that means WAEC or NECO test results that have 5 scores of 6 or better. You can also qualify through work experience; you must have two years experience in a job that requires a certain amount of advanced training. What we will like you to do is please check out the website www.dvlottery.state.gov where there is a very detailed explanation about educational and occupational requirement for the DV 2011 program.

Q: That is www.dvlottery.state.gov

ANS: Exactly, correct.

Q: Can a person who is in the US apply for the DV 2011 program?

ANS: Absolutely. The only requirement is that you be a citizen of a qualified country and again, you can find a list of all the qualified countries on the website. And you must submit your application electronically. Your physical location when you do so doesn't matter.

Q: Right and is there a fee to enter the DV lottery?

ANS: No it's absolutely free. It is free to access the website; it's free to submit your entry. There are fees only if you subsequently win the lottery and you go on to apply for your immigrant visa.

Q: I have been approached by someone who claims to be an official agent for the DV lottery. Should I use this person to submit my application?

ANS: Absolutely not. Do not believe anyone who claims to be an official representative of the US government or of the American Visa Lottery and who says they can help you submit your application. There are no official agents in Nigeria or anywhere in the world for the DV 2011 lottery. The only way to submit your application is to go to the website www.dvlottery.state.gov. That reminds me, I'd like to bring up another issue. Sometimes people say they are asked to submit fees when they want to submit an application for the DV lottery, again there are no fees to pay when you are applying for the DV lottery, in fact there are no fees at all throughout the DV process until you physically come to the US Consulate General if you have won the lottery and you need to submit your application for the immigrant visa.

Q: Do you want to repeat the official site again?

ANS: Absolutely, please go to the official website for the DV lottery 2011 which is www.dvlottery.state.gov

Q: It's good to know that. Now, what do I do if I am pressured to apply for the DV lottery?

ANS: Unfortunately, the US Mission in Nigeria sees far too many cases of fraud involving information on DV entries. Sometimes people would submit fraudulent forms in order to prove that they qualify and there are even cases where people would provide information about fraudulent marriages in order to help somebody illegally immigrate to the United States. The US Mission is committed to fighting fraud and human trafficking in all its forms and to providing a secure and transparent visa application process for Nigerian citizens.

You can have people help you complete a DV visa application. Many people do. However we remind you that you and you alone are responsible for the accuracy of the information in your application, not the person who helped you fill out the form. Do not engage in fraud in an attempt to qualify for the DV or for any visa application. The penalties can be very severe. It's not just that you might not get the visa. You could also get a lifetime ban from going to the U.S. at anytime and under any form. You could end up in jail. And it could affect not just you but also your family members. If you think that you have been pressured by someone to submit a DV application when you do not wish to or to provide incorrect information in your DV application we want you to let us know. We want to help you but we can only help you if you tell us what's happening. You can contact any officer of the US mission here in Nigeria or you can write to us at LagosIV@state.gov.

Q: Could you explain that again, the penalties?

ANS: Certainly. If someone is applying for a visa, any kind of visa, whether that is a DV, an immigrant visa or a non-immigrant visa, and they provide false information or they turn in fraudulent documents, if they do not tell the truth on the application, or if they do not truthfully answer the questions that the consular officer presents to them, there is a possibility that that person will not only not get the visa but could also be banned permanently from going to the United States. In addition, certainly if someone was convicted of engaging in fraud or forgery as part of their visa application, they run the risk of violating Nigerian laws as well and could therefore face criminal penalties in Nigeria.

Q: Now my DV entry was chosen in the past but I did not qualify for a visa. Can I enter the DV 2011 Lottery?

ANS: If you won the DV lottery before and you applied for your visa and you did not get it you are still welcome to reapply for the DV 2011 this year. However please keep in mind that in addition to all of the application procedures you are still subject to the immigrant visa qualifications and those have not changed. So we still want you to please go to the website again and that's www.dvlottery.state.gov and carefully read the educational and occupational and other requirements for immigrant visas and DV Lottery entries to be sure that you qualify before you submit any entry.

Q: Again I have children and I don't plan on bringing them to the US should I list them on my entry form?

ANS: Yes applicants for the DV program must list all of their children -- biological children from a prior marriage and if you have adopted any children, on their entry form even if those children do not plan to go to the United States. As part of the DV application and US procedures, a child is defined as anyone who is under the age of 21.

Q: If my name is chosen for the DV 2011 does that mean I will get the visa?

ANS: Not necessarily. Winning the lottery is great and we congratulate all those future lottery winners. However, even if your application is chosen, you must still meet all of the qualifications for an immigrant visa and the special educational and application requirements of the DV program. Not everyone whose entry is chosen will qualify for a visa.

Q: When will I hear if my application is chosen?

ANS: Applicants who win and their entry will be notified by mail at the address on their entry forms between May and July of 2010.

Q: Thank you for taking time for taking time to answer our questions on DV 2011 lottery also known as American Visa lottery 2011.

ANS: Thank you very much for having me. It was a pleasure.

Q: We have been talking with the Deputy Chief of Consular Section of the US Consulate General Lagos who has answered questions on the DV 2011 Lottery otherwise known as American Visa Lottery 2011. Could you please repeat the site to go to?

ANS: Absolutely. If you are interested in applying for the 2011 American Visa Lottery go to the official website that's www.dvlottery.state.gov. Thank you.